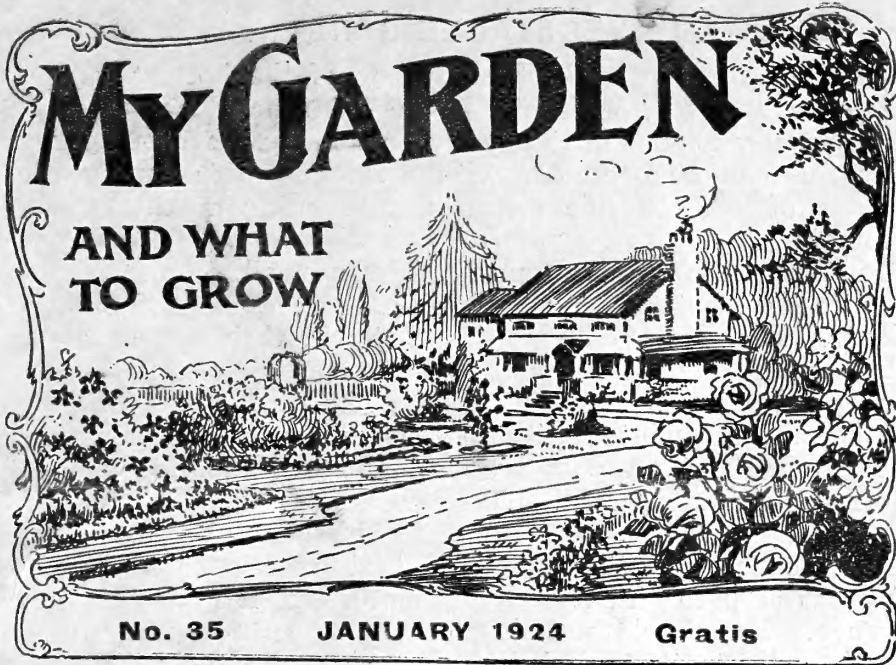


63.84
Africa
1921-1924

D. N. Shoemaker.
FEB 28 1924



ISSUED BY THE ASSOCIATED FIRMS:

C. STARKE & CO. LTD. **CHARLES AYRES**

*Agricultural & Horticultural
Seedsmen & Nurserymen*

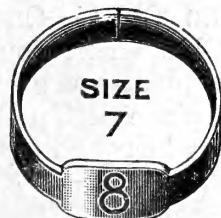
MOWBRAY
Cape Town
Telephone 585 Woodstock
Telegram: "Seedstarke,
Mowbray."

*The Cape Florist, Nurseryman
and Seedsman*
(Telephone 561 Woodstock)
The Nurseries, Liesbeek Road,
ROSEBANK, Cape Town.
Seed Store: 118 St. George's St.
Phone 778 Central
Telegrams: "Ayres."



Simplex Poultry Rings

Sizes 1 to 3 (Chickens) 1/- doz., 10/6 grs.
,, 4 to 6 (Hens) 1/3 doz., 12/6 grs.
,, 7 to 9 (Cocks) 1/3 doz., 12/6 grs.



THE VEGETABLE GARDEN.

At the Cape January is usually one of the hottest months of the year and very little can be done in the Vegetable Garden, especially as the heat usually coincides with drought and unless this can be overcome with a liberal water supply, the prospects of a favourable return from seeding at this season are remote.

Further north, where summer rains prevail, the conditions are quite different and altogether another problem faces the gardener. He must find varieties that will thrive under those conditions and undoubtedly there are many Vegetables that will respond and give a good return. The grower in each area must become acquainted with his own climatic conditions and shape his methods accordingly, gradually building up from his past experience so as to be able to do a little better each year.

Then there is the new-comer to the district. He may have had experience elsewhere and that experience may be a very great help to him if correctly used, but it may also be a hindrance. He should not despise local methods but should rather investigate them and find the reason for the local practice. It may be possible to improve on local methods but improvement seldom comes by ignoring or disparaging what others are doing as a result of their experience.

Seeds to Sow.—Where conditions are favourable you may sow the following Vegetable Seeds in January:—Peas, Cowpeas, French Beans, Beet, Carrots, Onions, Radishes, Turnips, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbages, Cauliflower, Kale, Kohl Rabi, Herbs (various), Lettuce, Spinach. The most important items at present are Cabbage and Cauliflower because seed must be sown now in order to have early plants for the winter crop.

It is not enough that you prepare the beds carefully and sow the seed. In the hot weather it is necessary to provide shade until the seeds have germinated and the plants are strong enough to face the hot sun and they must be watered very regularly when needed or they will make very little and unhealthy growth. They need tender care just like any young, growing thing.

Seed Potatoes.—All the varieties listed last month are now practically sold out. The English seed arrived in splendid condition and proved to be of excellent quality, well sorted and exceptionally well packed. We are now expecting another shipment which should arrive early in January and will include the varieties listed below. These are offered subject to arrival and subject to being unsold.

Arran Chief.—One of the best Scotch varieties and now well known in South Africa. Per case 16/6.

Evergood.—A great favourite overseas, where it is taking the place of Up-To-Date and giving very general satisfaction as a heavy cropper of good quality. Per case 16/6.

Up-To-Date.—So well known that it needs no description. Per case 17/6.

APPRECIATIONS.

Retreat, 12th December, 1923.—“I wish you could see for yourself what it means to buy good seed. Not 6 months ago when I started to clear the ground I have put in seeds bought from you. You should see it, everybody around here says it is marvellous.”

VEGETABLE TRANSPLANTS.		Per 100	1000
Beet, Eclipse	...	1/3	10/6
„ Flat Egyptian	...	1/3	10/6
Broccoli, White Mammoth	...	2/-	
Brussels Sprouts	...	2/-	
Cabbage, Cape Spitzkool	...	1/3	10/6
„ Cape Sugarloaf	...	1/3	10/6
„ Enkhuizen's Glory	...	1/3	10/6
„ Early Jersey Wakefield	...	1/3	10/6
„ Large Oxheart	...	1/3	10/6
„ Large Red Drumhead	...	1/3	10/6
Cauliflower, Woodside Early	...	1/9	15/-
Cape Gooseberries, 2/6 dozen.	...	15/-	
Celery, Solid White, 6d. dozen	...	2/6	
Kale, Curled Garden	...	1/3	10/6
„ Thousand Headed	...	1/3	10/6
Kohl-Rabi, Large White Goliath	...	1/3	10/6
Lettuce, Giant Crystal Head	...	1/3	10/6
„ Curled Neapolitan	...	1/3	10/6
„ Woodside Giant Cabbage...	...	1/3	10/6
Leek, Large Flag	...	1/3	10/6
Onion, Brown Spanish	...	1/3	8/6
„ Yellow Bermuda	...	1/3	8/6
Parsley, Plain and Curled, 6d. dozen.	...	2/6	
Sage, Marjoram and Thyme, 3/- dozen.			
Peppermint, 1/6 dozen.			
Mint, 1/- dozen.			
Egg Plant, New York Spineless, 1/6 dozen.			

REVISED PRICES.

Bamboo Canes:	2 ft.	3 ft.	4 ft.	4 ft.	5 ft.	6 ft.	
Weight, lbs.	3-4	4-6	6-8	12-14	24-26	28-32	per 100
Price	7d.	8d.	9d.	1/3	2/6	3/-	per doz.
„	3/6	4/3	5/-	8/6	18/6	21/-	per 100

Three-foot lengths are not obtainable at present but the light 4 ft. at 5/- per 100 is an excellent substitute. Six-foot lengths are also sold out but will probably arrive during January. The slightly higher prices of some lengths are due to scarcity owing to troubles in China.

Flower Seeds: *Convolvulus major*, Per pkt 6d, per oz 1/6
Thunbergia alata, Per pkt 6d, per oz 7/6

KIRSTENBOSCH IN JANUARY.

(Contributed).

Foremost among the flowers at Kirstenbosch this month are *Agapanthus*, both the cultivated varieties and the smaller, but even more beautifully coloured *Agapanthus umbellatus* may be seen to the right of the Dell.

The delicately scented Keurboom, *Virgilia Capensis*, and the Wild Almond, suitable for sturdy hedges, are in flower.

The Black-Eyed Susan, *Thunbergia alata*, a bright yellow-flowered twiner may still be seen on the Terrace, and at the lower end of the Dell two species of *Moraea* are flowering profusely.

The lovely *Aristea capitata* is in bloom on the hillsides.

THE FLOWER GARDEN.

In this department you have the same difficulties to face as in the Vegetable Garden. At the Cape it is heat and drought and a difficult matter to care for seedlings, but with shading and careful and regular watering it is possible to deal with plants that naturally like the hot weather. Others are best left till the autumn rains begin.

If you have a garden to make up and do not want to wait till autumn, you can proceed with the preparation of the ground and deep working at this season is very beneficial. It allows the air to get into the soil and the action of the sun on the freshly turned soil is also of great benefit.

If you do want to plant something to relieve the bareness of ground intended, for instance, for shrubs, these may be planted now or at any time because we send them out in tins which are easily stripped off leaving the ball of earth around the roots quite intact and if such plants are carefully set out on deeply worked soil and carefully tended during the hot weather they should prove quite satisfactory.

Seeds to Sow.—Where conditions are favourable you may sow the following Flower Seeds in January:—*Althaea*, *Antirrhinum*, *Aquilegia*, *Aristolochia*, *Barberson Daisies*, *Bellis Perennis*, *Balsam*, *Canterbury Bells*, *Cineraria*, *Coleus*, *Convolvulus*, *Cosmos*, *Dahlia*, *Delphinium*, *Foxglove*, *Gaillardia*, *Gerbera*, *Globe Amaranth*, *Gypsophila*, *Hollyhock*, *Hunnemannia*, *Nasturtium*, *Pansy*, *Portulaca*, *Primula*, *Statice*, *Stocks*, *Sweet William*, *Swainsonia*, *Zinnia*.

Delphiniums.—We have received new season's seed of *Kelway's Splendid Delphiniums* and this may be sown at once. The seed does not retain its vitality very long and it is therefore best to sow as early as possible. If the weather is hot the seed pans or beds will have to be shaded but these beautiful herbaceous perennials are well worth any trouble that may be necessary to make sure of a good number of plants for flowering next spring. We offer the following:—

		Per pkt.	Per oz.
Delphinium	Belladonna ...	6d	30/-
„	Mixed Hybrids ...	6d	10/6
„	“Langport” Strain, Dark Blue Shades ...	6d	30/-
„	“Langport” Strain, Light Blue Shades ...	6d	30/-
„	“Blue Butterfly,” a smaller type, usually treated as an annual, very pretty ...	6d	10/6

Barberson Daisies.—New season's seed is available at present and if sown now the plants should be strong enough to set out next winter. The seed should be sown in deep pots or the open ground if a suitable situation can be found. They want deep soil because the roots are long and straight and the seedlings never thrive in shallow pans for that reason. Give them plenty of sunlight and moisture in summer, merely shading the seed bed until the young plants are strong enough to stand the hot sun.

Barberson Daisy, *Scarlet* Twelve seeds for 6d; 2/6 per 100

Barberson Daisy, *Hybrids* Twelve seeds for 6d; 2/6 per 100

Mesembrianthemums.—All varieties listed last month are still available. Always give them “a place in the sun.” They will not tolerate shade. All varieties at 3/6 per dozen or 6d each.

Stocks.—We have received the new season's seed of that magnificent strain of "Nice" Stocks which has been so favourably commented upon the past two or three seasons. You should sow it at once so as to have early plants for winter flowering. The following varieties are available:—

STOCKS OF NICE.

	Seed.		Plants.
	Per pkt.	oz.	Per doz.
Abundance , carmine rose, large ...	6d	15/-	1/3
Almond Blossom , white, shaded carmine	6d	15/-	1/3
Beauty of Nice , flesh pink, early flowering	6d	15/-	1/3
Crimson King , brilliant fiery scarlet ...	6d	30/-	1/3
Kiris , dark violet ...	6d	15/-	1/3
Empress Elizabeth , beautiful bright rose	6d	15/-	1/3
L'Etincelante , dazzling scarlet, superb	6d	15/-	
Monte Carlo , soft canary yellow ...	6d	15/-	1/3
Mont Blanc , improved white ...	6d	15/-	
Queen Alexandra , pretty rosy lilac ...	6d	15/-	1/3
Rose Queen , brilliant deep rose ...	6d	30/-	1/3
Souvenir of Monaco , brilliant crimson, very early	6d	15/-	1/3
Violet of Nice , a rich colour ...	6d	15/-	1/3
White Christmas , very free flowering ...	6d	30/-	1/3
White Lady , a superb white ...	6d	15/-	1/3
"Nice" Varieties, Mixed , including nearly all the above	6d	15/-	1/-
German Ten Weeks , a superb strain, mixed colours	6d	15/-	1/-

BEDDING PLANTS.

	Per doz.
Bellis Perennis ...	1/-
Canterbury Bells , year old plants ...	3/6
Carnation , Margaret-Malmaison ...	2/6
Delphinium , Blue Butterfly ...	1/6
Gazania pinnata , beautiful yellow daisy ...	2/-
Gloxinia Seedlings , Finest Strain ...	3/6
Petunia Hybrids , Striped ...	1/-
Pinks , Semperflorens, Perpetual-Flowering ...	2/6
Picotees , Choice Mixed ...	1/-
Salvia , Scarlet-Flowering Sage ...	5/-
Verbena , Scarlet ...	2/-
Zinnia , Mixed ...	1/-

A USEFUL RECIPE—DROP SCONES

Starke's COUNTRY Households, 4 cups; Butter, $1\frac{1}{2}$ table spoons; Milk and water mixed, $1\frac{1}{2}$ pints; Baking Powder, 1 dessert spoon; Salt, a pinch. Butter-milk may be substituted for the milk and water.

Mix flour, salt and baking powder, sift through a fine sieve. Rub in the butter and add milk gradually to make a soft dough. Turn out on a floured board and knead slightly. Roll out and cut into thin rounds. Bake in a very hot oven for about fifteen minutes.

ABOUT IMPORTED BULBS.

At this season many kinds of bulbs are reaching South Africa from Europe and elsewhere—principally from Holland, and whether they reach you direct or through a Nurseryman or Seedsman, it is necessary that they should have correct treatment or they will almost certainly be disappointing to the purchaser.

When shipped these bulbs are in a dormant condition but approaching the time when they would normally start into growth and some kinds actually start growth on the voyage. This growth may not be apparent on arrival because it may not have developed very far, but it is essential that it should be taken into account in the treatment that is meted out to them after arrival in this country.

The check to this growth on arrival owing to the reversal of the seasons is responsible for a big part of the losses and disappointments in connection with certain kinds of imported bulbs. In some kinds it is followed by a secondary growth, but in others it is apt to cause the loss of the bulb or to set it back several seasons.

On arrival all bulbs should be carefully unpacked and examined individually. Any that are rotting or otherwise in an unsound condition should be effectively destroyed so as to prevent infection being carried to the sound bulbs or into the soil in which they are to be grown, for there are definite diseases such as eelworm and perhaps many others which are introduced in this manner if suitable and drastic measures are not adopted.

It may be taken as a rule, with not very many exceptions, that imported bulbs are best planted immediately on arrival and it is advisable to have them here as early as possible for this purpose. Most kinds planted under these conditions during our hottest weather are much benefitted by a cool and shady situation. This situation may not be suitable as a permanent home for them but it is better to move them again at a more favourable time if necessary.

Daffodils and Other Narcissus.—If good bulbs, free from disease, are obtained, these usually reach this country in an apparently sound outward condition, but, especially in the Single Trumpet varieties, they seldom flower the first season because the flower is partially developed on the voyage and the check that follows is sufficient to destroy the flower although the bulb may not be seriously affected beyond that. They should invariably be planted immediately on arrival in suitable loamy soil but should not be watered. Anything that can be done to keep them cool during the hottest months will be advantageous. Avoid a damp soil with blazing hot sun upon it. This makes suitable conditions for rotting the bulbs. It is better if they are in quite dry soil, but perhaps the best possible condition would be soil with very slight moisture, just sufficient to encourage root growth without top growth. Under such conditions the bulbs will probably remain dormant till April and will then be quite safe. This applies, of course, to the Western Province. We must say quite frankly that we do not know much about the behaviour of Daffodils under a summer rainfall. If any reader has experience of this and will kindly send it along we shall be grateful.

Hyacinths.—These should be very carefully examined, particularly at the base of the bulb. If they have started to rot at that point they are quite useless and should be destroyed to avoid infection. If rot has started at the top of the bulb it is possible to scrape it out carefully and dust with lime and thus save the bulb, but it is not likely to produce a good flower. Hyacinths can be flowered quite successfully the first season and if growth has started it can yet be retarded by keeping them in a cool, dry and fairly dark place. As soon as the weather is cool enough, or if growth cannot be retarded they should be planted out in good sandy loam, and do not water them until root growth has well started or the moisture will not be absorbed and the bulb may rot.

Anemone and Ranunculus.—These may be stored on arrival in a cool, dry place for planting out in April. It is well to plant them out fairly early, as soon as the weather is fairly cool. Ranunculus should be soaked overnight before planting.

Bulbous Irises.—These are very difficult to acclimatise and for that reason good South African grown bulbs are worth very much more than imported—probably ten times as much. But, in spite of the difficulties, the Iris lover will continue to attempt the difficult task of establishing these plants on account of their great beauty. The bulbs must be planted immediately they arrive and must be watered very sparingly, even after top growth has started. It would be better to give none at all than too much water, and attention must be given to shading so as to keep the bulbs cool, but avoid the hot moist conditions that are set up in soil that is shaded and yet not in a cool situation. There should be a free play of air over the beds otherwise the bulbs will surely rot and this rotting takes place even after considerable top growth has developed, so that you are never sure that you have saved your bulbs until the next dormant period arrives. As a further aid in avoiding humidity it is essential to see that the soil is exceptionally well drained.

Rhizomatous Irises.—The so-called German Irises and allied types belong to this group and also the Japanese Irises. The German Irises and perhaps all varieties having similar foliage like well drained soil, good garden loam with a sufficiency of lime, and a sunny situation. Avoid particularly a situation in which they will lack sun in winter. During summer they require a sufficiency of moisture because it is their principal growing period. The Japanese Irises require very different conditions. They look for a copious water supply and will thrive at the edge of pools or streams and can stand quite a lot of flooding. They are not partial to soil containing much lime as can be guessed from the situations that they prefer. Both should be planted immediately on arrival, as a general rule, and the endeavour should be to give them the described conditions forthwith. The culture of these Irises is, however, a very big subject because there are so many varying types and our remarks must be taken as quite general. Perhaps another time we may be able to give more detailed information about them.

Gladiolus.—These are the most satisfactory of all imported bulbs. In fact, it is possible to flower them out of season in our autumn and the same bulbs will flower again the following spring if they have been placed in a suitable situation for carrying through the winter. Good garden loam, well drained—such

is the soil that suits them best, but there are many types of *Gladiolus* and much can be done by varying the treatment for each, but try them by all means as they are easily grown and will surely please you. Plant out the imported bulbs immediately they arrive and water just sufficiently to start growth, increasing later if necessary when they are growing well.

For further information about bulbs please refer to our 1923 **Bulb Catalogue**. We have a few copies left in case yours has been mislaid or for anyone who has not received a copy.

GLOXINIAS.

We are offering a grand lot of young Flowering Plants in 4 inch pots at 2/- and 2/6 each. This is a very fine lot in glorious colours like those we offered last season. They are for local sale only as they will not stand packing for rail or post—order early.

AZALEA INDICA.

The imported plants referred to in our 1923 Shrub Catalogue have arrived and are now ready for sale. They are a fine batch and all the best varieties are included as per list below.

Prices: There are plants at 7/6, 8/6, 10/6 and 12/6, according to size. The lower prices (7/6 and 8/6) are for prompt orders only and after a few months growing on, the same plants will be dearer—probably 10/6 upwards. We can afford to sell them cheaper if they are sold quickly, so book your order promptly.

Apollo (Medium-Early).—Deep scarlet, semi-double.

Blushing Bride (Medium-Early).—Salmon-pink, double.

Chicago (Late-Flowering).—Deep pink, bordered white, double.

De Schryveriana (Late-Flowering).—Rosy carmine bordered white, double.

Deutsche Perle (Early-Flowering).—Pure-white, double.

Ernest van Eeckhaute (Late-Flowering).—Bright red with undulated edges, double.

Jean Peeters (Medium-Early).—Rosy carmine, double.

John T. D. Llewelyn (Medium-Early).—Delicate flesh bordered white, double.

Madame Jos. Vervaene (Medium-Early).—Salmon bordered white, double.

Madame Moreaux (Late-Flowering).—Salmon bordered white, undulated edges, double.

Madame van der Cruyssen (Medium-Early).—Bright pink with large blotch, semi-double.

Memoire de Louis van Houtte (Late-Flowering).—Brilliant pink, double.

Nicbe (Late-Flowering).—Pure white, double.

Paul Weber (Late-Flowering).—Brilliant pink bordered white, double.

Perle de Lederberg (Medium-Early).—White striped cherry red, double.

Pharailde Mathilde (Early-Flowering).—White striped red and spotted yellow, double.

Professor Wolters (Medium-Early).—Brilliant pink bordered white, single.

Simon Mardner (Early-Flowering).—Brilliant pink, double.

Talisman (Early-Flowering).—Salmon bordered white, double.

Temperance (Late-Flowering).—Delicate lilac, double.